

THE HARVEST IS HERE

THE first harvest of a Britain once more at peace is being gathered; and we may all see in the fine golden sheaves lying in the sunlit fields tokens of the essential, everlasting, and unchanging needs of mankind. A crunching tractor may now pull the mechanical binder round the field and accomplish the reaping in less than half the time it once took the company of scythe men, but it is the same harvest that men have always needed.

This is not the only harvest, however, that we are gathering this year. Peace is a reminder that the years which have passed were not all barren and unfruitful. We have reaped a harvest of tears and bloodshed whose bitter fruit will be with us for generations to come; but this bleak harvest is not the only one we now gather.

The world is richer in friendship than it was six years ago, for we have gathered a mighty harvest of new understanding between the peoples of the world. It might be pointed out that we have reaped, too, a harvest of enmity, but in this new harvest field of the world the wheat is more abundant than the tares. Six years ago we knew little of that quarter of the world's peoples living in the lands of Soviet Russia, and we knew even less perhaps of another vast section of the human race living in China. The ordeals of war have brought the peoples of east and west into a new harvest of understanding and friendship which must not be frittered away now that the common oppressors have been defeated.

THERE is an infinitely richer harvest of friendship to be reaped than seemed possible six years ago. War has flung wide the gates along the pathways of new friends and has also torn up wrong ideas. In the crucible of warfare the nations of the world have had their

friendships tested and have not been found wanting.

We have been witnesses of destruction that no man can assess, but alongside the destruction has proceeded the other process of friendship building. Men across the world know each other better. They have seen and heard one another in a variety of ways which only a catastrophic upheaval like war makes possible. All this has yielded a harvest beyond compare.

There is also a harvest of mechanical and scientific marvels which we have gathered during the war years. But many of these instruments of war can be dedicated to the pursuits of peace. The brains and ingenuity which planned and executed Mulberry, Radar, Pluto, and Fido need not rust if we are ready to be as adventurous in peace as in war. Under the urgency of war the impossible was achieved; and the harvest of scientific and mechanical marvels must be the herald for many new wonders to come when the harvest of peaceful developments is gathered in.

THERE is also the harvest of common understanding—not the least of the harvests we have gathered. A new appreciation of the other man has entered into most people's understanding. Men and women of differing standards of life have lived and worked alongside one another, and that comradeship will not lightly be dissipated in rancour and dispute. There is a harvest of appreciation of the other man, his problems and his point of view, which remains yet to be fully gathered in, and without which our peacetime world cannot be well founded. Much good seed remains to be sown, but already some seed has brought forth a harvest which has ripened under the clouds of war and may now be garnered under the sun of peace.

A GIRL QUISLING

THE appearance in the criminal dock of Vidkun Quisling, on charges of high treason to his native Norway, has been like a symbol of the retributive justice which overtakes traitors. During the last five years his name has stood for treachery and betrayal. General Franco gave Europe, during the Spanish Civil War, the term Fifth Columnist, but Quisling's name has gained world-wide currency as a synonym for the secret enemy within the ranks of a man's own country.

But treachery is commemorated by a name far older. Two thousand years ago Rome had a girl quisling, Tarpeia, daughter of the governor of the citadel crowning the hill on which the Capitol was later to

stand. Tarpeia secretly agreed with the Sabines to open the fortress gate to them by night, provided that the besieging warriors gave her the splendid armour—meaning the gold bracelets they wore on their arms. Retaining their gold, they contemptuously threw their armour—heavy shields—upon her as they entered, crushing her to death beneath the weight.

She was buried in that part of the hill called after her, the Tarpeian Rock, and for centuries traitors were hurled to death down its steep sides. Legend has it that Tarpeia sits, still breathing, but entranced, in a cave in the interior of the hill, beautiful, untouched by time, amid gold and jewels such as she coveted as the price of her baseness.

The Press-Button Ship

MANY of Germany's seagoing vessels are being refitted and examined for new ideas in our shipyards, and new features are being discovered.

One of the most interesting discoveries is the press-button steering of the tanker Felmhude. Instead of the usual steering-wheel three large press-buttons are used to control the helm, one each for port, starboard, and rudder amidships. On the bridge an indicator shows how the vessel is responding to the helm, and on a voyage from Scotland to Tyneside the Felmhude's controls were proved to be much superior to the old system.

Silence at Sullom Voe

SULLOM Voe, most northerly of Britain's aerodromes, has closed down. The aerodrome is in the Shetland Islands, and it has the reputation of being the loneliest R.A.F. Coastal Command Station in the British Isles. But that did not prevent the airmen of Sullom Voe from keeping in the limelight.

From this base flights were made into the Arctic, and from here, also, the Edinburgh V.C. Flight-Lieutenant J. A. Cruickshank, was operating against U-boats when he gained the supreme award for valour.

Now Sullom Voe's brief period of activity is finished and the silence of the northern seas will creep back over it again.

CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

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The Sergeant and the Turtle

A smiling U.S. sergeant and his captive, a sea-turtle, are seen on the beach at Ihiya, an island in the Ryukyus.

THE FANATICS

A JAPANESE Christian of noted family, living in America, has been telling the Press that his countrymen will never believe that their Emperor has been defeated. The Emperor is regarded as a god, and gods do not surrender, says this American Japanese, adding that the pursuit of revenge is a duty, according to the Japanese religion.

The Japanese certainly do cling to established prejudices. When Lord Elgin headed the first British mission to Japan in 1858, public notice-boards in the towns and villages still bore warnings against a list of crimes considered atrocious. One of these "crimes," punishable with death, was the acceptance of Christianity. That was a relic, still valid, of the persecution and extermination, accompanied by every horror of studied cruelty, 217 years earlier. In all that time the Japanese had forgotten nothing and learned nothing.

Whatever their beliefs as to the infallibility and invincibility of their own gods, the Japanese have shown little regard for deities sacred to other nations. In the 16th and 17th centuries they warred against Spanish

missionaries and their converts, and, in 1641, following a dreadful series of executions, published the following extraordinary warning: "So long as the sun warms the earth, let no Christian be so bold as to come to Japan, and let all know that if King Philip himself, or even the very God of the Christians, contravene this prohibition, they shall pay for it with their heads."

It was in that spirit that, in defiance of the laws of war, they beheaded some of the first American airmen who fell into their hands, and it is this spirit which it will be the hardest task of all for the Allies to purge.

Golden Deed

Boys playing cricket in an Australian town used a piece of an old earthenware pipe as a wicket, and the fast bowler smashed it.

Later when a dairyman passed on his rounds he thoughtfully cleared the broken pieces from the road and in one of them noticed a yellow gleam. It was a nugget of gold and a bank paid him £5 13s 1d for it!

The Church Takes a Hand

WHEN a Negro family moved into a previously "all-white" neighbourhood in Chicago, some of the white neighbours protested violently. Stones were thrown through the windows, and threats were even made that the house would be burned.

A young pastor of a local Presbyterian Church was told of the situation, and wrote letters to all the neighbours, asking them frankly: "Do you mean it when you say in your pledge of allegiance to the flag, Liberty and justice to all?" After the

church service the next Sunday, which the Negro family attended, 150 members of the congregation conducted them home, singing and carrying flags.

This evidence of support for the Negroes convinced the community that there was no need to drive them out, and they were afterwards made to feel welcome. "We don't suppose that the problem is solved," says the pastor, "but the purpose of showing where the Church stands in these neighbourhood flare-ups has been accomplished."

LEND-LEASE—AND AFTER

THE unexpected ending of the Japanese War has caused many problems. The sudden switching over from production for war to production for peace is one of the greatest of them and is a problem the solution of which has been made urgent by America's decision to end Lend-Lease.

In announcing President Truman's decision Mr Attlee said in the House of Commons that the sudden cessation of a support on which our war organisation had so largely depended put us in a very serious financial position.

Lend-Lease has been an integral part of the war organisation of the Allies and in this way, said Mr Attlee, it has been made possible for us to mobilise our domestic manpower with an intensity unsurpassed elsewhere, and at the same time to undertake expenditure abroad in the support of military operations over a widely extended area, without having to produce exports to pay for our imports of food and raw materials or to provide the cash we were spending abroad.

The very fact, he went on, that this was the right division of effort between ourselves and our Allies leaves us far worse off when the sources of assistance dry up than it leaves those who have been giving us the assistance.

Mr Attlee announced, however, that he had decided to send to America his financial adviser, Lord Keynes, and our Ambassador, Lord Halifax, to discuss what can best be done to ease the situation which, of course, affects not only our own economy but that of America.

Mr Churchill agreed to support the Prime Minister in the national interest which, he said, must always claim the allegiance of members of all parties.

Thousands of Millions

It was in March, 1941—several months before the United States entered the war—that President Roosevelt announced a system of supplying military goods and civilian supplies to Allied nations whose war effort was vital to the defence of the United States. Since then the Allied Nations have received without payment supplies worth more than 40,000,000,000 dollars—roughly, £10,000,000,000. Of this huge total the British Empire's share up to last May was £7,250,000,000 and Russia's was £2,000,000,000.

Unrra's Work of Mercy

At the Third Council Session of Unrra (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration) which was held recently at London's County Hall, the delegates of 44 member nations worked hard at the immense problems that confront Unrra in bringing relief to those millions of human beings who have suffered most in the war.

These are problems from which the civilised world dare not shrink, for, as Mr Ernest Bevin, Foreign Secretary, said when he opened this Session, there would be appalling conditions of disease and anarchy in the war-stricken lands if the liberated nations had to face the next 12 months without help.

One of the Council's problems was how to raise enough money—or goods in place of money—to enable Unrra to carry out its

It was not entirely a one-way traffic, however, for under Reverse Lend-Lease goods and services were provided for the United States by the other nations. These, however, formed but a small proportion of the value of those received.

At the time when Lend-Lease was instituted the British Empire stood alone against the Nazi menace and, our credits in U.S.A. having become exhausted, we should have found it embarrassingly difficult to carry on the war but for the generous aid from our friends in America.

And now, after nearly six years of war, in which Great Britain has disposed of foreign assets to the value of nearly £2,000,000,000 she, in common with many other countries, finds herself without sufficient means to pay for imports.

A Proposed Loan

When President Truman's announcement of the sudden ending of Lend-Lease was made there were vast stocks of goods and others were on their way abroad. But the American Government made the following proposal to meet the difficult trading situation. Any Allied country which has been receiving Lend-Lease Supplies may purchase these goods with loans made for the purpose by the American Export-Import Bank. Interest will be charged at 2½ per cent and the loans are repayable over 30 years. But Britain has also incurred a debt to the Empire and other countries of £3,500,000,000, and the consequences of still further borrowing are not to be faced lightly.

The visit of Lord Keynes and Lord Halifax to America is the result of an invitation from the American Foreign Economic Administrator to enter into immediate conversations to work things out in the manner "which will best promote our mutual interests." And with a continuation of the spirit of good will and co-operation which has brought the two nations through the dark days of war there should be no fears as to the result of the talks.

work of mercy. For it is planned that the shipments of relief supplies to the stricken countries of Europe shall be completed by the end of 1946 and to the Far East three months after that. The Council decided to ask every member country of Unrra to make a further contribution of one per cent of its national income towards the noble work.

For us in Britain this may mean some sacrifice, as Mr Noel Baker, Minister of State, pointed out at the final meeting. He said we have no surplus of goods or wealth to give away, and therefore to provide our share of Unrra's expenses we must accept another reduction in our own consumption of goods beyond the very heavy reductions we have accepted during the war. Britain, however, will continue staunchly to support Unrra's magnificent work.

Britain Ratifies the Charter

BEFORE adjourning for their summer holiday both Houses of Parliament unanimously approved the Charter of the United Nations signed at San Francisco on June 26.

Speeches by members of all parties showed how strong was their realisation that the spirit underlying the Charter was the only hope for future civilisation. Many urged that the proposals did not go far enough.

The whole debate was greatly influenced by the knowledge that the atomic bomb had entirely changed the international outlook.

There was a discussion as to who should control this new weapon—should the secret be entrusted to the Military Staff's Committee set up by the Charter?

Mr Bevin, in winding up the debate, insisted that civil authority must predominate over both military and scientific authorities and that the secret should not be divulged until the world organisation was in being.

Our Foreign Secretary emphasised that there was on our Government's part and among the 50 signatories of the Charter a resolute determination to make the Charter work. He stressed the point, too, that vigour and life in the new organisation depended not alone on Governments' action but also on organised public opinion. The main terms of the Charter should be made familiar to everyone as a reminder to the people of their obligation to international law.

MANCHURIA IS CHINESE AGAIN

THE 30-year treaty which has just been signed by Russia and China restores to China a prestige that she lost at the beginning of this century. Tsarist Russia then coveted the riches of Manchuria but was thwarted by Japanese ambition and greed. Soviet armies have now won back Manchuria from Japan and under the new treaty are handing it back almost entirely to General Chiang Kai-shek's Government, which will administer the whole country.

For security reasons, however, Port Arthur is to become a joint naval base for Russia and China, the former being responsible for its defence.

For purposes of trade, the Chinese Eastern and South Manchurian railways are to be jointly owned, but after 30 years are to pass freely into Chinese possession.

The two nations, also, are to operate Dairen (twenty miles up the Kwantung Peninsula from Port Arthur) as a free port for all nations, half of the port's installations and equipment being leased free of charge to Russia.

Under the treaty, too, the independence of Outer Mongolia (where since 1924 the Government has been run on Soviet lines) has been recognised by China and will be respected by Russia.

Outer Mongolia has a sparse population of under 500,000, but Manchuria, with less than half its area, has about 40,000,000 inhabitants who are mostly industrious Chinese.

WORLD NEWS REEL

IN addition to exporting large quantities of rabbits to Britain, New Zealand has sent trial consignments of frozen hares and of 20 tons of young goat meat.

Several dismantled air-raid sirens are being given by the New South Wales Government to surf life-saving clubs for use as shark alarms.

The Japanese in Hong Kong were ordered by General MacArthur to surrender to Rear-Admiral C. H. J. Harcourt of the Royal Navy.

In the first six months of this year Canada sent 80 million lbs of carcass beef, 255 million lbs of bacon, and 51 million lbs of canned meat to Europe.

Of Japan's 369 warships only 49 remain, among them being the badly-damaged Nagato, sole survivor of the 12 battleships afloat at the beginning of the war.

A South African war widow has arrived in London with a cheque for £250,000, a gift from South Africa to the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund.

THE population of the U.S. is now some 139,682,000, an increase of eight millions in the last five years.

HOME NEWS REEL

THE Post Office want French-speaking girls to operate the International Phone Exchange. Six weeks' training is required before they can work the switchboard.

Opera is to be performed again at Glyndebourne, in the heart of rural Sussex, where, next June, Sir Thomas Beecham and Professor Charles Ebert are to collaborate in a festival which will last three to four weeks.

The Salisbury copy of Magna Carta has been replaced in the cathedral library.

The Pharmaceutical Society have warned chemists that fire-work chemicals may not be sold to boys and girls under 16.

An official report says that Scotland is emerging from the war with a health record comparing favourably with the best pre-war levels.

Sir Sylvanus Vivian, who introduced the identity card, believes that it will remain in use as long as food is rationed.

MR CHURCHILL has been invited to accept the Freedom of Marlborough, his ancestral home.

Shipbuilding workers on the Clyde are attending lectures on new methods of shipbuilding, particularly electric welding which is taking the place of riveting.

YOUTH NEWS REEL

FOR bearing with great courage long suffering following a street accident in which his leg was badly damaged, 11-year-old Wolf Cub Roy King of the 4th Welling Group, Kent, has been awarded the Cornwell Scout Decoration. Unfortunately, all efforts failed to save Roy's leg.

A London firm of aero-engine manufacturers has given much of its surplus A.R.P. equipment to the local Boy Scouts Association in recognition of the good war service of the Scouts. The gift includes trek carts, blocks and tackle (useful for pioneering), and beds.

Many reports to Scout HQ show that Boy Scouts all over the country, experts in the art of making camp-fires, were asked to build bonfires for V.J. Day celebrations.

In gratitude for the Red Cross parcels received during the German occupation, the Channel Islands has sent £46,000 to the Duke of Gloucester's Red Cross and St John's Fund.

Plans for a world-wide oil co-operative scheme is to be the main theme of the International Co-operative Alliance Conference, due to open in London on September 10.

The General Election which was to have taken place in Bulgaria recently has been postponed to a later date, thus giving time for the appointment of a fully representative Government capable of concluding a peace treaty.

A 12-YEAR-OLD boy, René Steve of Avignon, has been awarded the Croix de Guerre for holding a German patrol at bay during the Maquis rising in the Alps a year ago.

Up to the end of May New Zealand Army war casualties were 33,015, of whom 5963 lost their lives.

Corvettes of the Royal Navy are operating an air-sea rescue service on trans-Atlantic air routes.

Britain has sent 12 diving suits and gear to Yugo-Slavia.

From the beginning of December the overseas tour of duty for unmarried R.A.F. personnel is to be cut by six months, the service then lasting for 3½ years.

Work will soon be starting on the new Severn Bridge, delayed by the outbreak of war.

Since the early days of the war Post Office employees have contributed £600,000 to a relief fund for war-distressed colleagues.

One of our air defence leaders, Air Vice Marshal Cole-Hamilton, who commanded No 11 Fighter Group, which destroyed about 6000 German aircraft, has died after a short illness.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur (Bomber) Harris is retiring from the position of Air Officer Commanding Bomber Command.

Many dockyard workers at Devonport recently had their first Sunday free of work since the war began.

Field-Marshal Lord Wavell, Viceroy of India, arrived in London not long ago for discussions with the Government on the future of India.

It has been revealed that during the war 49 batteries of British cross-channel guns between Hastings and Margate sank about 25 enemy ships.

brations. Aberdovey Scouts built their bonfire on the seashore.

Lerwick Sea Cadet unit has been presented with some Kayak canoes, formerly used by Commandos to supply Norwegian patriots.

"More accidents are caused by blunt axes than by sharp ones," said the Chief Scout, Lord Rowallan, who, while in camp recently, was seen at the grindstone busy sharpening a hand-axe as his good turn to the Eton College Senior Troop, of which he is an honorary member.

The Boys Brigade Diploma for gallant conduct has been awarded to Private James W. Payne, age 13, of the 1st Daventry Company, for rescuing from drowning a boy in difficulties.

Charlemagne Goes Home

IN an American truck driven by an American G.I., Charles the Great, Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, has been brought back to his last resting place at Aachen. The Germans had removed Charlemagne's remains from his famous tomb in the city where they were laid in the year 814 to a place of safety in Westphalia.

Aachen was Charlemagne's favourite residence and there he built his own mausoleum, and there he was buried under an enormous slab which bore the words "Carolo Magno." The great church was built on a model of

the church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem and long after its erection it remained one of the wonders of the western world to the varied peoples over whom the Emperor reigned.

The return of Charlemagne's body symbolises for Europe a sense of her tradition and history over a thousand years. It was the great Emperor who joined the old Empire, rich in ancient tradition, with the vital new life of the young nations of the north and so helped to lay the foundations of European culture and civilisation to which the world owes so much.

ALL A-FLUTTER

WHEN HMS Undaunted sailed through the Sydney Heads to celebrate peace and victory, she was flying the flags of Japan, Germany, Italy, Greece, France, United States, China, and Poland. And above them all could be seen a flag known in the navies of America and Britain as "bus," and hoisted when steaming out for combined operations.

"We were feeling exuberant, so we hoisted the lot," explained one of the officers.

DAMASCENE

A YOUNG British officer has been contrasting dreams of Damascus with Damascus as it really is.

While sitting at food in the famous old city recently he heard a loud, persistent hammering, and, with a theory in his mind, resolved to investigate. He imagined that the sounds must be caused by the work of some inspired craftsman, heir to the ancient tradition that made the products of Damascus famed throughout the world. Steel inlaid with gold and silver, sword-blades damascened with watered patterns—these, he recalled were among the craftsman's achievements that lent glory to the name of Damascus.

Going into a bazaar, however, our officer did find a native craftsman at work on metal; but, alas for romance! he was making not a knightly sword-blade, but a "tin" trunk from a heap of little cans that, not long before, had contained pork and beans!

MRS GRAY HEARD LATER

WHEN Sergeant Philip Gray of Blackburn, speaking for the gallant 14th Army, led up to the King's broadcast message on the night of V J Day, his mother was busy about her house all unknowing that such a high honour had been granted to her son. Not having a wireless set, she first heard the whole story when her son returned home.

A Duel on Elephants

ONE of the sad chapters of the world-conflict has ended in forgiveness of Siam. Invaded and dominated by Japan, she was compelled in December, 1941, to declare war on her old friends, the British Empire, and its Allies. Siam has now apologised, proffering an explanation whose sincerity admitted of no doubt. She owed us good will and gratitude, for British scholars have done much for Siamese education during the present generation.

Siam has emerged from the war with greater speed and ease than some in which she was previously engaged. Her conflicts with Cambodia extended over

400 years, while her wars with Burma endured, at intervals, throughout the 15th and 16th centuries.

An 18th-century Tsar of Russia proposed in his official Gazette that quarrels between States should in future be settled by personal encounters between their Sovereigns, each combatant being attended by his Prime Minister as second. But King Narasuen, the national hero of Siam, had already anticipated him. Mounted on a royal elephant he met in single combat the Crown Prince of Burma, similarly mounted, defeated and killed him, and liberated Siam from subjection to her rival.

RUBBER NEWS

ONE of the big war problems facing the United Nations has been the production of suitable substitutes for rubber, because Malaya, the chief source of natural rubber, has been in enemy hands.

Air-Marshal Sir Philip Joubert, deputy to Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, says that he has heard that Malaya's rubber plantations have not, on the whole, been seriously harmed by the Japanese. A team of experts is waiting and, as soon as the Japs are finally cleared, they intend to lose no time in tapping the precious juice and shipping it back home.

Book of Friendship

THE children of Streatham Hill Congregational Church have sent their own Book of Friendship across the Atlantic. Passed round among American boys and girls it will give them real glimpses of life in Britain.

Each page of this big leather-bound book, with handsome embroidered linen cover, has a picture with an appropriate text and an original comment by one of the children. As an example: opposite the text, "Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge, is a picture of an outdoor class at an evacuated school, and underneath is written, "This is a

school somewhere in the country far away from the danger of air raids. It must be like going to a picnic when you go to a school like this among the trees. The girls don't look as though they are having lessons. They all look very happy. The schoolgirls live in these huts among the trees, but I think they would rather be at their own houses with relatives and friends."

Other pictures show American soldiers giving British children a party, American and British flags being exchanged at a service in the bombed City Temple, and American gifts being distributed to homeless children.

More Friendship Books are in preparation by Streatham children for other parts of the world.

PADDY'S SAVINGS

EVERY Sunday morning for five years Paddy, a collie dog, has made a three-mile trip to buy a savings stamp. Paddy belongs to Mr H. Gold of Liverpool.

Mr Gold puts a half-crown into the dog's mouth and at once Paddy trots off to the home of Miss F. Singer, a savings group secretary, a mile and a half away. Paddy puts the coin on the table and is given a savings stamp screwed in a piece of paper in its place, and then returns home.

In all his journeys Paddy has never lost a single stamp or coin.

THE SKIPPER

TO the epic of HMS Glowworm, already told in the CN, a touching postscript has been added by the former captain of the German cruiser Hipper (Vice-Admiral Helmuth Heye), which the Glowworm rammed on that April day in 1940, just before she met her glorious end.

Lieutenant Gerald Roope, skipper of Glowworm, who was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross, might have saved himself. This very gallant gentleman preferred, however, to help with the rescue of several of his shipmates, and when Lieutenant Roope eventually reached the Hipper's side, he was not strong enough to hang on to the proffered rope, and was drowned before he could be pulled on board.

THE SYMBOL

A LIGHTED cross which was erected as a temporary warning to ships on Cave Rock, Christchurch, New Zealand, is now to be left as a permanent memorial to those who have died in this war.

The cross, which is visible from some distance out to sea as well as from the land, is simple and dignified. It is a fitting symbol for those who gave their lives for the cause of Freedom.

The Diver's Way With a Ship

A PORT in India is closed owing to a sunken vessel lying 20 feet from the quayside. At the request of the Indian Government a party of deep-sea divers are leaving Australia to attempt the removal of the vessel.

The divers, 12 of them, led by Captain J. P. Williams, chief of the Australian Marine Salvage Board, have a very big job, for the 8000-ton ship is lying on her side and is weighed down by 6000 tons of mud. Experts say that the feat of raising the ship is an impossible one, but Captain

Williams declares that she can be raised—and within nine months!

He should know what the chances are because his leadership of the Salvage Board has meant the successful recovery of 132 ships, totalling 660,000 tons, from the waters around Australia and New Guinea between 1942 and the beginning of this year. More than half a million tons of war equipment, valued at several million pounds, and civilian supplies have also been recovered by Captain Williams and his expert staff.



Vigorous Youth

These happy tennis players give expression to their high spirits by jumping over the net before playing in the Essex Junior Tennis Championships at Wanstead.

A FIVE-YEAR PLAN

RUSSIA has drawn up a new five-year plan which will be in operation till 1950. Russia's industrial position is considerably below the pre-war level, because very many of her factories and plants have been ruthlessly smashed by the Nazis.

While this plan is primarily designed to rebuild them, Russia also intends to expand her industries, thus enabling her to trade more extensively in the world markets.

A separate five-year plan has also been devised for Russian railways.

The Sexton of Stoke Gabriel

THE people of Stoke Gabriel, South Devon, are very proud of their sexton, George Narracott, because he rang the Victory bells on the parish church bells on V J Day. For George carried on the Narracott tradition of announcing big news, a tradition maintained since the 15th century.

When Edward IV was crowned king in 1461 Sexton Narracott told the news on the bells. He was the first of a long line of Narracotts, and through the centuries father has been succeeded by son right down to the present day. A Narracott has heralded the accession of our sovereigns, and rung out our victories by land and sea, and all matters of import, down to the last great news of Japan's fall.

And that was George's privilege. But he is unmarried, and that long line in Stoke Gabriel's history may be broken—after more than four centuries.

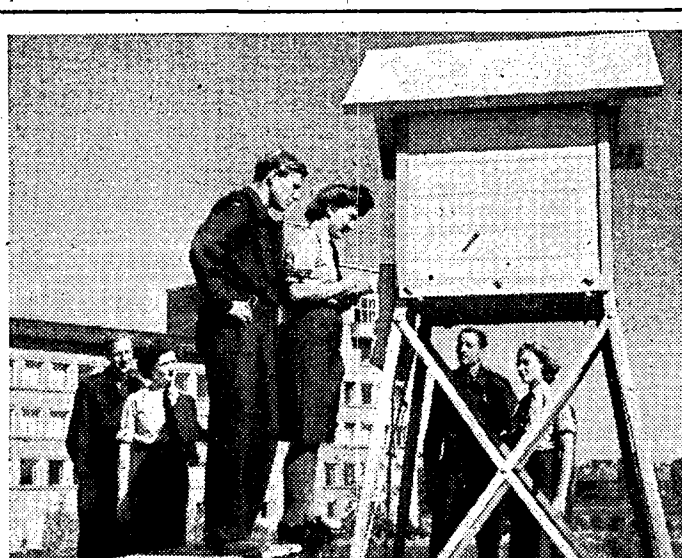
MONTY TO MONTY

EIGHT-year-old Donald Amos, of Bethersden, Kent, has a treasure he will value all his life. It is a letter from Field-Marshal Montgomery, thanking him for a photograph taken at the village Victory Fancy Dress parade, where Donald, dressed as "Monty," won first prize.

A GIRL SOLDIER

WHEN the Japanese captured the Philippines they interned the widowed mother of 13-year-old Virginia Weems. Virginia escaped, put on boy's clothes and joined the Filipino guerillas who thought she was a boy. In the Island of Luzon she often took part in actual fighting against the Japanese.

Now, after three years' service with the Filipino Patriots, she has been given an honourable discharge by Major-General William Gill, Commander of the 32nd US Division, but she has been obliged to remain in uniform, for so far she has been unable to buy a dress because clothes are in short supply!



Tomorrow's Weather

At the Meteorological Institute at Blindheim in Norway Waafs are instructing Norwegians in British methods of weather forecasting. Here a thermometer reading is being taken.

THE PROBLEM OF WREN'S BLITZED CHURCHES

A DIFFICULT problem that now confronts Londoners is deciding what is to be done with the ruins of 30 of the City's famous churches, designed after the Great Fire of London by Sir Christopher Wren and affected by the 20th century Nazi blitz. Two of these churches were totally destroyed and of 28 others that were damaged by fire most are only burnt-out shells.

Are they to be rebuilt as churches, kept as open spaces, or sold and the money used for building new churches needed by growing localities elsewhere? Herein lie tragic dilemmas into which the war has brought us, for there is so much that is near our hearts in the arguments of all sides.

If they are sold it will mean that Wren's "dreams in stone" which have endured for over two hundred years will be gone for ever. On the other hand, the value of the sites on which the buildings stand is probably about one million pounds.

It has to be remembered that when these churches were built

the citizens of London mostly lived within its boundaries. Today hardly anyone lives inside the City itself. London on a Sunday is quieter than a country village—much quieter than some when traffic takes possession.

London's citizens began to move out with the introduction of railways and trams, and at the same time the growth of commerce turned the City's buildings more and more into offices, shops, and warehouses. Before the war there were certainly more churches than were needed to minister to the spiritual needs of the City, while outside more churches were badly needed for increasing populations.

The CN has always urged the preservation of all that is beautiful and of historic interest in our heritage, but human needs must come before everything and many of our readers will feel that it would be a wise course to sell some of the sites of the blitzed churches and use the money to shed spiritual light in places where it is at present sorely needed.

The Zoo Looks Ahead

THE London Zoo has a reconstruction plan, one that will involve the spending of £250,000. But permits to go ahead must first of all be forthcoming, and that does not seem likely just yet.

Some parts of the Gardens received damage from bombs, and though certain repairs have been effected, major changes must give way to prior needs elsewhere. The first move will be to pull down the antelope house and erect one with two storeys on the site, the ground floor to shelter the elephants and the upper one parrots. A similar building is to be erected for the antelopes and insects.

The restocking with new exhibits is also being considered, and gifts from many parts of the world will be accepted as soon as transport is available. Many returning from the Forces have been able to give exhibits, among them lizards, rare spiders, and a mongoose, but larger gifts must wait.

High on the list of requirements is a gorilla from the Belgian Congo. Even when it is possible to have one a permit for its export must be issued by the Belgian Government. A young African elephant awaits transport, also a collection of deer from Tanganyika and Kenya. A lion or two would be welcome, as would be penguins and hippopotami, which are badly needed.

But transport is so urgently required for things of greater importance that the Zoo must patiently wait, whatever the gift, until the position is easier.

Cross of Beeches

BACOMBE HILL, near Wendover, known to many as a beauty spot, is to have a lovely war memorial.

This shrine will take the form of a cross of copper beeches to be planted in filled-in bomb craters, and will commemorate the raising of the first £5,000,000 for the Red Cross Agricultural Fund.

Reclamation of a Desert

AN expedition organised by the South African Government has initiated an ambitious project. It is no less than the reclamation of part of the Kalahari Desert, that huge arid region in the northern part of the Union. The expedition has been carrying out a survey of the area.

The Kalahari, covering an area of 120,000 square miles, equal to the area of the British Isles, was described by Robert Moffat as the "Southern Sahara." It is partly desert, undulating with sand dunes, and partly a wilderness overgrown with thorn, scrub, and dry grass. It abounds with wild beasts—antelopes, zebras, and quaggas that feed on the coarse herbage and the bitter and sweet water melons that grow wild; and lions and leopards that prey on the others. Buffaloes, baboons, hippopotami, rhinoceroses, and ostriches are also found there.

The only human inhabitants are wandering bushmen and a primitive people called Ba-Kalahari (Men of the Kalahari) who live by hunting and have an ingenious way of obtaining water by driving a reed into a mud flat and sucking up the water which they store in empty ostrich eggs. They are a solemn people, for their lives are difficult. Livingstone said of them that he had never seen Ba-Kalahari children at play.

To the north of this land of thirst are two enormous regions of swamps, the Okovango and Chobe, in which rivers lose themselves. The problem confronting the experts of the expedition is whether the water in these swamps can be harnessed to irrigate part of the Kalahari. If modern science could do this, water that is now going to waste could be distributed over the desert and a new civilised country would be added to the world.

PATHFINDER VC

IN all the glorious annals of the RAF there is no finer epic than the story of Squadron-Leader Ian Willoughby Bazalgette, who has been posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for courage, devotion to duty, and heroic sacrifice.

On August 4, 1944, Bazalgette was master bomber of a Pathfinder squadron detailed to mark an important target in France. Near his target, both starboard engines of his Lancaster were put out of action, and serious fires broke out. The bomb-aimer was badly wounded. But Bazalgette pressed on, marked, and bombed accurately.

Later, the port inner engine failed and the starboard mainplane became a mass of flames. One of the gunners was overcome by fumes.

Squadron-Leader Bazalgette finally ordered those of his crew who were able to leave by parachute to do so. The gallant skipper then attempted the almost hopeless task of landing the crippled and blazing plane, in the hope of saving the bomb-aimer and the air gunner.

Somehow he contrived to steer clear of a French village and bring the aircraft down. Then the plane exploded, and Bazalgette and his comrades perished.

The EDITOR'S TABLE

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

IN a bold, sweeping survey of world affairs and of the new Government's foreign policy which he made in the House of Commons the other day, Mr Ernest Bevin, the Foreign Secretary, made an excellent impression, not only in the House, but throughout the country and the world. That augurs well for the future, for a clear-cut policy in our foreign relations is essential. There is one point made by Mr Bevin which we think deserves to be specially underlined. The primary aim, to be resolutely followed, he said, is the prevention of one form of totalitarianism being substituted for another. This is, indeed, a fundamental necessity. The democratic way of life, with no dictators, is the only highroad to permanent peace, prosperity, and true happiness for the world.

Swimmers All

IT may not be generally known that the new Education Act imposes upon a local authority the duty of securing the use of a swimming bath to ensure that all children are taught to swim.

Three famous men of the Services, Admiral Sir Edward Evans, General Sir Hubert Gough, and Air Chief Marshal Sir R. Brooke-Popham, have written to The Times underlining the importance of this, pointing out that about sixty-five per cent of the male recruits to the Forces could not swim. As they very properly point out, the consequence of this has been a loss of valuable lives at sea, due not only to inability to swim, but to inability to rescue.

Learning to swim is almost as necessary as learning to walk, and just as easy. It is grand exercise and can be grand fun. Every child in the land should be taught.

CARRY ON

Romance on the Map

I AM told there are people who do not care for maps, and find it hard to believe. The names, the shapes of the woodlands, the courses of the roads and rivers, the pre-historic footsteps of man still distinctly traceable up hill and down dale, the mills and the ruins, the ponds and the ferries, perhaps the standing stone or the Druidic Circle on the heath; here is an inexhaustible fund of interest for any man with eyes to see or twopence-worth of imagination to understand with!

Robert Louis Stevenson

September Days

CALMER than breezy April, Cooler than August blaze, The fairest time of all may be September's golden days.

Frances Havergal

FIRST THING

SOMETIMES wisdom comes from unexpected sources. It is not always the highly educated, or the widely travelled, or even the well-read man who is wise, for sometimes his brain is so full of "cleverness" that there is little room left for common sense.

A group of men were recently discussing the possibilities of using atomic energy to replace all known means of producing power. Some of them had given glowing forecasts of tiny engines which would drive great liners at low cost, of light-weight cars which would travel at phenomenal speeds, and of a

Ambassadors

IN the German village of Eystrup 400 children were entertained recently at a party given by Lieutenant-General Horrocks, commander of the XXX Corps.

"I want to bring the children under the influence of Britain's best ambassadors—the private soldiers," said the General after the party. "This is only the forerunner. In every village area of the XXX Corps I want

Under the E

A COUNTRY should choose its own rulers. And know where to draw the line.

A WORKMAN says he always falls asleep on the bus going home. Drops off at his destination.

A HEADMASTER says he never used the cane. He made a hit with the boys.

CAR seats can be turned into chairs. And cars into streets.

PETER WANTS KNO



promenade

The Cliffs

AH! from mine eyes the tears unbidden start, As thee, my country, and the long-lost sight Of thy own cliffs, that lift their summits white Above the wave, once more my beating heart With eager hope and filial transport hails! Scenes of my youth, reviving gales ye bring, As when erewhile the tuneful morn of spring

THE RICH MAN AI

THE ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

INGS FIRST

world-wide network of power-lines which would bring labour-saving devices to every town and village in our New Civilisation.

An old man who had been listening confessed that he could not follow the descriptions which had been given of this marvellous discovery. But he said something which was, perhaps, wiser than anything else which had been uttered in that group.

"Let's put first things first. Let's hope this new power is something good and that we have the sense to use it right. But in the village I come from we've been waiting for water-taps and gas-rings for twenty years."

In Khaki

my men to organise sports meetings and picnics for the children."

As Milton said, The childhood shows the man as morning shows the day; and our military leaders have been wise to encourage the troops to do all in their power to bring happiness to young Europeans, for many of whom the days of childhood have indeed been days of woe.

ctor's Table

PICK AMERICA is to produce 50,000 private aeroplanes a year. The number will go up.

THE B B C has promised bright morning music. Suppose it isn't a bright morning?

No End Yet to Queues, says a headline. But we have seen people at the end of them.

If sea-side bands give A LITTLE girl's school report says that she shouts too much. A loud concert report.

of England

Joyous awoke amidst your blooming vales,
And filled with fragrance every painted plain:

Fled are those hours, and all the joys they gave!
Yet still I gaze, and count each rising wave

That bears me nearer to your haunts again;

haply, mid those woods and vales so fair,

Stranger to Peace, I yet may meet her there. *William Lisle Bowles*

ND HIS TREASURE

And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God. *St Luke*

The Anchorage of Home

PREACHING at the Thanksgiving Service at Westminster Cathedral, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster made a plea for the restoration of home life, and for security in the family life of the nation.

Never, in all the long history of our country, was the anchorage of home more greatly needed. It is the mainspring of the finer human qualities, and the sure foundation of human happiness.

Hannah More put it very beautifully when she wrote:

*The sober comfort, all the peace which springs
From the large aggregate of little
On these small caves of daughter,
wife, or friend, depend.
The almost sacred joys of home*

ALLIED HARMONY

THERE was an impressive ceremony in Vienna the other day when the Allied C-in-Cs arrived for a conference.

Russian, British, American, and French troops took part, each country's band playing first its own national anthem. Then, for the march past, the bands played as one.

Giving and Receiving

ONE day last month Mr Winston Churchill was sheltering from the rain at Westminster when a boy recognised him.

With simple, boyish sincerity he went up to the great man and said: "Thank you, sir, for all you have done for us." Mr Churchill shook the boy's hand.

Meanwhile, other boys had recognised Britain's great war leader and pestered him for his autograph. Mr Churchill begged to be excused and went his way.

There is a moral in this true story. One boy gave something, simple enough, which, to Mr Churchill, must have been very precious. The others wanted something for—we would suggest—mere self-gratification.

BIRTHPLACE

THIS fond attachment to the well-known place

Whence first we started into life's long race

Maintains its hold with such unflinching sway.

We find it e'en in age, and at our latest day. *Cowper*

The Best Company of All

CONSIDER what you have in the smallest chosen library.

A company of the wisest and wittiest men that could be picked out of all civil countries in a thousand years have set in best order the results of their learning and wisdom. The men themselves were hid and inaccessible, solitary, impatient of interruption, fenced by etiquette; but the thought which they did not uncover to their bosom friend is here written out in transparent words to us, the strangers of another age. *Emerson*

Teaching as a Career

WAR nearly always creates a desire for better things; and this war is no exception. One of the things that most of us want is better educational opportunity for our own children and for the children of others. Parliament has now paved the way for this.

So runs the opening paragraph of a booklet called *Teaching as a Career*, issued by the Ministry of Education (Stationery Office, 3d). Many thousands more teachers are wanted, and this, intended for men and women released from the Forces or other national service, contains details of qualifications, training, and prospects of employment of teachers in primary, secondary, and technical schools in England and Wales.

The Ministry give warning that teaching is an exacting profession, and that, although it affords a happy and satisfying life to those well-equipped for it, it means misery for those who choose it and find that they have missed their vocation. "The chief characteristic of all children and young people is that they are growing; growing in body, mind, and spirit; and any adult who does not possess, and cannot acquire an understanding of this characteristic, and an appreciation of what it means in the daily life of a school, had certainly better give up the idea of teaching. The hall-mark of a good teacher is that he is himself always learning and always developing his knowledge and understanding of children and young people."

Health and Security

On the other hand, the Ministry point out that teaching means a secure salary and a pension, that it brings opportunities for adventure in ideas and adventure in training those who will be the men and women of tomorrow, and that it has the advantage of keeping the teacher physically fit by means of games and other outdoor activities.

We heartily endorse the Ministry's statement that "it is a positive advantage for a teacher to have some personal interest which, at proper times, absorbs him to the exclusion of all thought of school, colleagues, parents, and children." How very true this is—in all walks of life.

Salaries for qualified assistant teachers in primary and secondary schools are £300 rising to £525 a year for men, and £270 rising to £420 a year for women, with certain allowances in special cases. There are, of course, higher salaried posts.

A NEW CRICKET STAR

BEFORE the curtain fell on the cricket season of 1945, a new star had arrived, in the person of D. R. Cristofani (with an accent on the second syllable).

This cricketer, who is only twenty-four years old, nearly snatched a victory for Australia at Old Trafford, with a rousing 110 not out, following his five English wickets for fifty-five runs.

Cristofani had the proud distinction of being second in the batting and second in the bowling averages for Australia in the Victory Matches.

There is little doubt that we shall hear a great deal more of him when real Test Cricket begins again.

THE SINGING TOWER

What form shall our National War Memorial take? Many widely-differing suggestions have been made, in the Press and elsewhere; but everyone is agreed that it should be a worthy memorial and one of a dignity that shall endure. Here is an idea which is worthy of consideration.

THE Men of the Trees, a society of tree-lovers, suggests that when man seeks to symbolise devotion, inspiration, ever-living memory, and peace his thoughts instinctively turn toward sacred groves of ancient trees. This being so, the society adds that the most fitting memorial would be a woodland sanctuary, always open to the public, with a Singing Tower in the heart of it, where carillon recitals could be given.

A National Sanctuary

The United States has such a sanctuary with a singing tower, and the depth of its appeal to the American public is proved by the fact that it was visited by more than a million soldiers and their families and friends before embarking for service overseas.

The story of the making of this beautiful sanctuary in Florida is indeed a romantic one. It concerns Holland in the long ago, and a little Dutch boy who went to America with his parents and there won fame and also a fortune which enabled him to make a dream come true.

Little Edward Bok was only six when, in the 1870's, he set foot in America. He spoke no English then, but by sheer grit and determination he became one of America's greatest editors. He never tired of telling the story of how his grandfather, by planting trees on a desolate, storm-swept North Sea island, a former haunt of pirates only, had made of it a place of beauty which became known as the Island of Nightingales.

Old Grandfather Bok left to his children and his children's children this message:

Make you the world a bit more beautiful and better because you have been in it.

Make the world more beautiful! That was the thought which was continually recurring in Edward Bok's head—that and the memory of the little North Sea island. So small wonder that while there still seemed many years of working life before him he resolved to give up his ordinary life-work and set up if he could some little earthly

paradise. He wanted a sanctuary which people could enjoy all the year, apart from any city—yet easily to be reached.

He found the place he wanted—a sandhill in Florida. It was almost as desolate as the island on which his grandfather had set to work.

During the 1914-18 war Edward Bok had visited the battlefields of Flanders, and he was very much shocked at what he saw in Ypres. He then felt a longing to find a place of peace and consolation for harried mankind. This sandhill in Florida should be the place, he determined, and he proceeded to turn the sandhill into a Garden of Eden.

Shade was wanted, and so a forest of live oaks was planted and tended so that growth was rapid. A lake was made on the arid top of Iron Mountain, as the sandhill was called, and hundreds of palms were planted around the lake. There is a garden also where the New Year comes to life in tens of thousands of bulbs. There are flowers for every season, azaleas, gardenias, roses, magnolias, acacias, and hundreds of flowering trees.

As the trees grew so the birds made a sanctuary of Iron Mountain, and then Bok remembered the nightingales of his grandfather's island. So he imported some from England.

His Dream Fulfilled

Then Edward Bok thought of something else which would always give music to the grove. He built a 200-foot Singing Tower. It is of marble and its beautiful tapering lines as it soars upwards recall the famous Boston Stump in Lincolnshire. Inside the Tower is a carillon of 71 bells, and every day sweet music rings out across the countryside.

As spring approached in 1929 the President of the United States accepted the Singing Tower and Sanctuary for the American people. Soon after, Edward Bok's life work was finished, and he was laid to rest for ever in his lovely garden in the shadow of the Singing Tower—in a corner of the world he made more beautiful.



THIS ENGLAND

The Flag of Freedom in peaceful Otford, Kent

Marionettes in Moscow

A C N correspondent has sent us his impressions of a performance of Mowgli (from Kipling's Jungle Book) at Moscow's famous Puppet Theatre. It was a first night, and it was also his first visit to the theatre, for he had always been disdainful of what he calls Punch and Judy shows.

I WENT and saw for the first time in my life that very interesting personality Sergei Obraztsov, the Director of the Theatre. Obraztsov was once an actor of the Moscow Art Theatre, and even when he stood before the curtain introducing his new show he struck one as being an artist to his finger-tips—his fingers and hands were as expressive as those of any Eastern dancer I have ever seen.

He explained to us that the scenes depicted were taken from the first Jungle Book, and dealt exclusively with the childhood of Mowgli, up to the time he first made the acquaintance of his fellow-men. He compared his show with Alexander Korda's picture on the same subject, which begins just where Obraztsov leaves off. He explained that the early years of Mowgli's life, with the meetings of animals at the Council Rock to execute the law of the jungle, their conversation, all those movements of the body, head, and tail that express what the animal is thinking, cannot be introduced into a stage or screen play; the animal could be made to talk by ventriloquism on the stage, or by simple mechanical means on the screen, but it could not be trained to act, that is, to show by the movements of its body what it is supposed to be think-

ing. But at the Puppet Theatre the dolls can be made to move in any way the operator desires.

The puppets are splendidly made, and will form a fine new contribution to the theatre's collection. We saw all our old friends: Sher Khan the tiger, the all-wolf pack, chattering, idle Bandarlog, and even wily old Kaa the python. Each of them seemed a real personality. There was, for example, something magnificent in the clumsy heavy movements of Baloo the bear, the law-giver of the jungle. Every clumsy movement of his shaggy body was eloquent. The puppet Baloo, incidentally, weighs almost 20 pounds, a heavy weight for an actor to hold at arm's length above his head and manipulate for over two hours.

The settings were just what one expects of a Moscow theatre, simply magnificent.

WAR TO PEACE

MANY who saw the forests of tubular scaffolding erected as defence works round the coast must have wondered what use would be found for it after the war.

Whitstable Urban Council have found one good way of using the tubes, for they have ordered more than fifty bathing cabins, with tubular steel frames covered with canvas.

BIG DEEDS OF THE LITTLE SHIPS.

THE great work performed by our little ships in the war years has just been revealed—truly a task well done.

The "Midget Navy" of motor-torpedo boats, motor gunboats, and motor launches are Coastal Force craft, and at the outbreak of the war consisted only of two flotillas. But their value was realised, and by 1944 there were some 1500 vessels, of which 1200 had been built in this country, the remainder coming from the Empire and the United States. They were manned by 3000 officers and 22,000 ratings.

When the struggle was going against us and France had fallen, these little ships had their first big task—at Dunkirk. They sped to and fro across the Channel with the rescued, among many distinguished passengers being Admiral Keyes and General Alexander, and members of the Belgian Cabinet.

When the German E-boat made its appearance our convoys had great cause to thank the midgets, which sank 48 of the enemy vessels and badly damaged probably twice that number.

The Leave Boat

The M T Bs, M G Bs, and M Ls have operated in waters far from our shores—in the fiords of Norway and the Adriatic and Aegean Seas. The enemy never knew where they might appear, and their sudden raids kept him on tenterhooks. On one occasion a ferry full of German troops going on leave was attacked and captured. The Germans got their leave—in prison camps! On the other hand, the attack on St Nazaire was so costly to the little ships that of the 18 engaged only four returned.

The M Ls, in particular, were never at rest, for, although originally designed to combat the U-boat in coastal waters, they undertook duties as mine-layers, minesweepers, convoy escorts, gunboats, smokelayers, air-sea rescue craft, and even then found time to engage in Combined Operations—a full bill for craft of a mere 100 feet or so.

Last year was the most successful for the midget navy, with 387 engagements with the enemy, D Day being the busiest day of all. The German evacuation of Le Havre gave them a chance to repay the debt of St Nazaire and destroy 20 enemy vessels without loss. When during the closing stages of the war the midget submarine made its appearance the Coastal Force's little ships refused to be intimidated and disposed of 23 of the 81 sunk or captured.

In the course of the war the midget navy lost 170 vessels. But they accounted for 500 enemy ships and 32 aircraft in a total of 780 actions.

But no figures can express the debt we all owe to the officers and men of our Midget Navy.

NEW TRAM

GLASGOW Corporation are to build an experimental tram with separate entrance and exit platforms on the near side to test its efficiency in speeding up the service. It is thought this may prove a successful way of avoiding crushes on the platform, besides saving time at the stops. An experimental bus is also to be built shortly on the same lines.



Acton Express

This little railway-engine was made by Chief Inspector Stevenson of the L P T B, who is here seen at the Board's Acton Works giving a ride to boys and girls.

AFRICAN SOLDIERS AT SCHOOL

The C N has already told of the four African war correspondents who went to visit units of the Royal West African Frontier Force serving in Burma and India. Here is a press message from one of the correspondents to his people in the Gold Coast:

YES, the West African soldiers go to school in exactly the same way as many of their sons are doing back home, and during a visit to a section of W A troops I was introduced to some of the star pupils who, as far as speed in learning is concerned, could put many Gold Coast youngsters to shame.

I had the opportunity of seeing two schools which are right in the camp and are open to everybody. The Army provides reading books and writing materials as well as maps and pictures, and the teachers are trained men.

The star pupil of one school is R S M Musa Kanjarga, who

comes from the Northern Territories. Before joining the Army he knew nothing about writing or reading, but after only two months in the hands of his teachers he is making excellent progress. He has developed a very fine hand and can already read letters from home.

Special classes are held for African N C Os, and what they learn is of tremendous value to them in their jobs, especially when it comes to reading the compass. Tuition is free and optional. The men are so anxious to learn that they flock to school and it is not possible to accommodate everyone. They keep order among themselves, and any pupil who is inclined to be troublesome and distract the attention of the others is speedily dealt with by his own comrades. A very fine job of work is being done by these enthusiastic teachers and it is one which will undoubtedly have a lasting post-war result.

BEDTIME CORNER

Mystery of Strangeways Cottage



"GOODNESS, she's a witch—a real one!" whispered Jimmy hoarsely, as he and Robert peeped through the hedge round Strangeways Cottage which had been deserted for a long while.

Among the weeds in the garden stood an old woman in a big cloak. She wore a cone-shaped hat and had a long nose and chin. Chuckling to herself she changed an egg into a live rabbit before the goggling eyes of the two boys. Jimmy was watching so intently that he lost his balance and fell through the hedge into the garden.

"Come here, little boy," cackled the old person, hobbling towards him.

In great fright Jimmy scrambled through the hedge, raced across two fields and did not stop until he tripped and fell flat in a ditch.

"That witch nearly got me!" he gasped to Robert who had followed him. "She would have turned me into a frog—or something!"

"But there aren't any such things as witches," objected Robert, looking puzzled.

"Of course she's a witch," panted Jimmy, "I'm never going near that place again."

They walked back to the village, talking about the mysterious old person at Strangeways. As they approached the vicarage they saw many people going into the garden.

"We'd forgotten, it's the village fête today," said Robert, and they followed the people in.

Then Jimmy cried in horror, "Look, there's the witch going into that tent! Let's fetch the policeman!"

"Hold hard," answered Robert, "What does it say on that placard by the tent?"

They read: Madame Magique. The Only Lady Conjuror In The World.

"Ah, there you are again, boys," said Madame Magique, coming towards them. "Are you going to see the rest of my show? Don't be frightened; it's not my real nose."

Rather sheepishly they entered the tent and much enjoyed her clever tricks.

IN A SHANGHAI CAMP

No happier news has come out of the Far East and Pacific war zones than that of the restoration of freedom to many thousands of prisoners and internees after years of captivity.

Among the first to be released by the Japanese were 6000 Britishers in the Shanghai area.

When they went into the camps three years ago the Shanghai residents were allowed to take only a mattress, bedding, and two cases of clothes. Over a thousand single men were put into the camp—old tobacco warehouses—at Pootung across the river from Shanghai, where for some time they were without adequate water and light, and had to sleep on the bare floors.

In the large camp at Yangchow, for married people, the Japanese allowed the camp to be almost self-governing. Committees for social and educational activities were started. Many of the interned were teachers, so a school programme was quickly arranged for the children. An efficient hospital was started, mainly through the hard work of the many doctors from the mission hospitals in the Shanghai area.

Food in the camps was very monotonous. The basic diet was rice, not of best quality, but a kind called cargo rice. To this was added vegetables, with a little meat occasionally. For breakfast there was usually rice porridge, one hard-boiled egg, and tea; for mid-day meal, steamed rice, meat stew, vegetables, and tea; in the evening, steamed rice, vegetable stew, and tea.

A Canadian missionary, who was repatriated from one of the Shanghai camps, says: "Our Japanese commandant was capable and considerate. He appreciated the treatment he had received in England and certainly did his best to make us comfort-

able. All kinds of work had to be done. About eight acres of vegetable garden were cultivated, hot-water boilers erected, good roads and drains made. There was also a farm which consisted of one cow and a calf, a few goats, pigs, and chickens. A school of about 250 children, also adult education, was carried on with five teachers with their classes in the same large dining-room."

A serious problem of the interned Britishers was the state of their clothes. Some of them had only summer clothes when they were interned. Blankets and sheets had to be improvised for clothes, and there was much ingenious work done to keep shoes and boots from falling to pieces.

In the camps were large numbers of missionaries. The China Inland Mission had 255, with 123 children; the London Missionary Society 107, with 23 children; the Methodist Society 90 adults and 20 children; the Baptist Society 49 and 16; and the Church Missionary Society 42 adults and six children. Many of the missionaries were doctors and teachers and proved themselves exceedingly valuable in the life of the camps. They arranged the diet, cooked the food, taught in the school, ran the small hospitals and generally helped to keep the life of the interned Britishers as happy and contented as possible.

Now that their long captivity is over these six thousand Britishers are turning their faces homeward, with great expectations, to see their own country and their friends from whom they have for so long been separated.

Whales to the Rescue

THE whale must come to Europe's rescue, to provide liver oil (full of vitamin A), meat, and other necessities of life.

In a report submitted by the British Chamber of Shipping to the Government, it is suggested that there should be twenty floating whaling factories throughout the world. Nine of these should be British, accompanied by 72 modern whale catchers, and several older vessels.

All pre-war British whaling factories have been sunk, but a new one was launched last June, and two more are on the way, one for Britain and one for Norway. Furthermore, it is recommended that all floating factories owned by Germany and Japan should be transferred to British or Norwegian ownership.

During the six years up to 1940, the report adds, the production of whale oil averaged about 480,000 tons a year, and nearly all of it was obtained in the Antarctic Ocean.

TWO M P S COME TO TOWN

THE policeman at the House of Commons put out a restraining hand as two men tried to pass him. "Sorry, sirs," he said, "M Ps only."

"But we are M Ps," was the reply. "I have been so throughout the war, too."

The policeman looked doubtful—he had already memorised the 325 new faces and these were not among them. But a glance at their papers settled everything and they entered the House—for the first time!

They were the members for the dual seat of Fermanagh and Tyrone and had just been re-elected, after serving that constituency since 1935. Mr A. J. Mulvey and Mr P. Cunningham, Irish Nationalists, are entitled to seats in the Commons, but because they had no enthusiasm for the British Government in 1935, refused to attend Parliament, forfeiting their salaries.

Now the electorate have asked them to attend regularly and, it seems, Mr Mulvey and Mr Cunningham intend to make the House aware of their presence!

Dickens and His Cottage

At which cottage in the Gravesend village of Chalk did Charles Dickens stay during his honeymoon?

This question has arisen because a film is to be made of Great Expectations, and the honeymoon cottage is to appear in scenes of the novelist's story. No one is apparently prepared to decide between Nash's Cottage and Craddock's Cottage.

The C.N. may be able to help the films by quoting from the Kent book in the King's England series. There we read of Chalk: Dickens loved this place, for here he spent his honeymoon, in Nash's Cottage, across the street from another cottage with a bust over the door, carved by Percy Fitzgerald, the novelist's sculptor friend. From this house Mr Pickwick set out on his immortal adventure, for it was here, in his honeymoon cottage, that Dickens started Pickwick.

A GOOD DEMOCRATIC GERMAN

THE bitterness of spirit created by two world wars has been responsible for the cynical saying that the only good Germans are dead Germans. But the United Nations, by their decrees at Potsdam, have given Germany an opportunity of proving that there are still multitudes of good Germans living, and they would do well to look for guidance and inspiration in the career and teachings of Baron vom Stein.

Living from 1756 to 1831, Baron vom Stein sought national salvation for a debased and stricken Prussia by means that embraced some of the measures that the Powers now prescribe for German national regeneration.

Salvation for the Germans, if it is to come, must spring from the efforts of the people themselves. Instead of being dragooned by self-appointed upstarts, they must create a form of national government that has its roots in the lives of the common people. Like ourselves, they must elect their local councils for the country parishes, for the boroughs, and for larger centres discharging duties of more than rural importance. Instead of having lists of candidates presented to them for whom they must vote, they must name and elect men of their own choice, and so qualify, eventually, for a freely-elected parliament, democratically conducted and controlled. If she chooses, Germany may become a democracy as free as Great Britain and the U.S.

But why should she turn to the record of old Baron Stein for a lead in such matters? Because, had he succeeded, Germany would have become a democracy with popular institutions more than a century ago. He was a good democratic German because he studied English history and customs, came here and saw for himself, and testified his admiration by seeking to introduce the English system of government into his own land.

Travel and intense study befitted him for high State office, and he served first Frederick the Great, and after him his two inglorious royal successors. During his long official career Stein achieved the sweeping away of serfdom and caste. He freed

trade so that land could be bought and sold, and made it unlawful for the State to tax the millstones with which the flour of the poor was ground. Intolerant of official corruption and incompetence, he crusaded passionately for honesty and ability in public life. In a tyranny-ridden land he secured reforms in the towns that enabled the people to elect their own local rulers; he planned an extension of the principle to the whole of the rural areas of the country, realising that reform must come from the bottom and spread upwards by inducing the people to interest themselves in the government of their country.

Many dragons beset his path, and none more formidable than Napoleon, who was in many ways the Hitler or Mussolini of his era. After eleven years of ignoble neutrality, Prussia herself was engulfed by the French. Stein, at first favoured by Napoleon as the strongest intellectual force of the nation, disappointed him by refusing to play an early quelling role. Napoleon, therefore, denounced him as an enemy of France, ordered his arrest, and confiscated his estates. Stein fled first to Bohemia and next to Russia, where he influenced the Tsar in a resolution never to make peace with Napoleon.

After Waterloo Stein reappeared as a leader of thought and political action, but was unable to achieve anything further. He therefore retired afresh to his studies, and died at his home in Westphalia 16 years after Napoleon's final overthrow. Some of his reforms endured till Nazism swept all away. They may still serve for precedent and model, and help Germany to find an honoured place in the comity of Nations.

ROUND THE WORLD WITH BSA

No. 14

BARBADOS.

Acquired without conquest in the reign of James I, Barbados is a happy example of peaceful colonisation. The only threat to the tranquillity of the island comes from the



hurricanes for which the West Indies are famous.

One of these, the Great Hurricane of October, 1780, is historic. It raged for twenty-nine terrible hours and devastated the island. For many miles inland the countryside was literally saturated with sea-spray. Ships were blown out to sea. Public buildings—including Government House—and all private dwellings were wrecked. Whole forests were uprooted, the bark being actually stripped from the trunks of many of the trees by the terrific force of the wind!

But, of course, such disasters are rare. So, at present, are B.S.A. Bicycles, though many a lucky owner of a B.S.A. may be seen riding past the sunny sugar plantations, cotton fields and tobacco crops of Barbados. Soon, however, there will be plenty of B.S.A. Bicycles—in Barbados and everywhere else. So, keep in touch with your dealer!

BSA

THE BICYCLE YOU CAN'T BEAT!

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Helen lives every moment

Playtime is never dull while Helen sets the pace. She is a favourite at school, joyously carefree... alert... alive!

Helen is "a picture of health," says Mother, who has always made it a simple rule to give her a dose of 'California Syrup of Figs' when biliousness or constipation have shown the need. 'California Syrup of Figs' is ideal for children. It is the laxative they like. It quickly regulates the system.



"California Syrup of Figs"

THE BRAN TUB

Jacko Speeds Things Up



JACKO, still on his country holiday, was helping the farmer to pick apples. Jacko wanted to show these slow country folk he was a quick worker. He filled a basket in record time and let it down with a rush as the farmer arrived below. "How's that for speed?" exclaimed Jacko. But the farmer, with his hat squashed over his eyes, took a very poor view of his speedy worker.

TOO WELL KNOWN

"ALL you've got to do," said the coach, "is to go into the race saying to yourself: 'I shall win, and you will.'"

"That's no use," was the reply; "I know what a teller of untruths I am."

Food Fancies

Why is a pudding never made square? Because it is always wanted to go round.

Which has the busier life, tea or coffee? Tea, because it is made to draw, while coffee is allowed to settle down.

Catch Question

WHAT difference is there between live fish and fish alive?

ON STRIKE

A CUCKOO went back in his clock and shut himself up with a shock.

"I'll not strike any more, I won't open my door; If they want me," he said, "they can knock."

SLIDING

Six slim slithery slugs slink slowly over the slippery slanting slat.

A FIGURE TRICK

ASK a friend to write down three different figures without letting you know what they are. Then tell him to reverse these and subtract the smaller from the greater, giving you the first figure only of the result.

You will at once be able to tell the whole number, because the middle figure will always be 9 and the first and third figure added together will make 9.

For example, suppose your friend has put down 259; this reversed is 952; the difference between is 693. Thus the middle figure is 9 and the first figure being 6, the last must be 3 to make 9. If you are told the first figure of the result is 9 you will know there are only two figures, and these will be 99.

Busier Than B's

E is the most often used letter of the English language, and the next most hard-working ones are T, A, I, S, O, and N.

Telling Tales in School

I NOTICED him in school, He looked content and cool, And yet I grieve to say, Though he could sport and play, He never learnt to read, Of spelling took no heed: The reason you may guess— He was a porpoise? Yes!

HARD TIMES

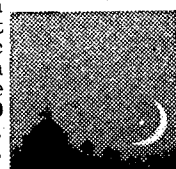
SELF-SATISFIED business man: Yes, I am retiring with money to burn.

Harassed householder: Then you'd better burn it! You'll find it cheaper than coal.

Other Worlds

IN the morning Mercury, Venus, and Saturn are in the east,

and Mars is in the south-east. The picture shows the Moon as it may be seen at 8.30 p.m. BST, on Sunday, September 9.



Proverbs About the Tongue

"THE boneless tongue, so small and weak, Can crush and kill," declared the Greek.

"The tongue destroys a greater horde,"

The Turk asserts, "than does the sword."

The Persian proverb wisely saith:

"A lengthy tongue—an early death."

Or sometimes takes this form instead,

"Don't let your tongue cut off your head."

"The tongue can speak a word whose speed,"

Says the Chinese, "outstrips the steed."

While Arab sages this impart:

"The tongue's great storehouse is the heart."

From Hebrew wit the maxim sprung,

"Though feet should slip, ne'er let the tongue."

The sacred writer crowns the whole—

"Who keeps his tongue doth keep his soul."

More Things Never Seen

A HAIR from the head of a hammer.

A key from the trunk of a tree. A petal on the rose of a watering-can.

Children's Hour

BBC broadcasts from Wednesday, September 5, to Tuesday, September 11.

WEDNESDAY, 5.15 Worzel Gummidge Goes Shopping—a play. 5.50 Letters in the Sand; a talk by Laurens Sargent. North, 5.50 What's Happening in the North. Scottish, 5.15 Programme in Gaelic. 5.30 Results of a Competition, followed by a short play.

THURSDAY, 5.15 Jeep the Weasel, a story; followed by some favourite gramophone records; and a Competition. North, 5.15 The Queen's Champion; a play about Christopher Norton and his attempt to rescue Mary, Queen of Scots. Scottish, 5.15 The Adventures of Tumbles; a play.

FRIDAY, 5.15 Storm of Green Hillocks: Part 1 of a serial play.

SATURDAY, 5.15 Bill and Matilda go to Buckingham Palace, another story told by Wilfred Pickles; followed by Stuff and Nonsense: Funfare on the air.

SUNDAY, 5.15 Concert by the Glasgow Orpheus Choir; followed by Jean Taylor Smith in a Story and Ballad.

MONDAY, 5.15 Pioneering in Australia—No. 5, the concluding episode; followed by Henry Cummings in his new Song-Cycle for Children; and "Dame Trot." 5.45 A Visit to Cowleaze Farm. North, 5.15 the Week's Programme. 5.20 Five Children and It or "The Psalmhead" by E. Nesbit—the Fifth Wish.

TUESDAY, 5.15 Another story about Tammy Toot; followed by Peat-Fire Flames (1), a song and story feature.

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

The Roving Otter. At the pond's brink, Don saw a large brown animal, with short legs and a thick tapering tail. It slid quietly into the water at his approach, and although he watched for a long time, it did not reappear. Upon the bank was a partly eaten fish.

"Yes, it was an otter," said Farmer Gray after hearing Don's story.

"When necessary they will remain motionless, with only their nostrils above water; to detect them then is very difficult. Their homes are usually near running water, but they are great roamers, often travelling as far as fifteen miles in a night, to visit a favourite pond or stream."

Modern Engineering

"THAT's an engine-boiler, sir," said the old foreman as he pointed to a large steel cylinder.

"And why do they boil engines?" asked the visitor, who thought himself something of a wag.

But the old man was not to be caught.

"To make the engine-tender!" he replied.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

The Tricky Bookworm

One inch and a quarter; the first page of Vol 1 is next to Vol 2 and the last page of Vol 3 is also next to Vol 2.

The Sheep Market

First pen 29; second 23; third 19; fourth 15; fifth 13; total 99.

| | |
|---------|--------|
| BEAD | CODE |
| LATE | ARIA |
| US | WANDER |
| EEL | ROE |
| DANGERS | |
| R | TOO |
| OUTING | BA |
| USES | ERRS |
| TARE | MEET |

WHATEVER THE SPREAD



Make **Hovis** the Bread

BEST BAKERS BAKE IT Macclesfield

THE GIPSY

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Waller's

"Palm"

TOFFEE



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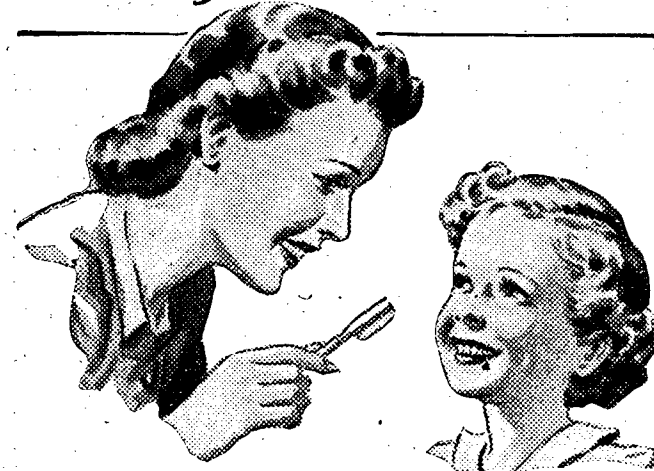
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